

of generators of electricity testified that they turned off their equipment at the demands of their bosses that resulted in driving up electrical prices on the west coast. This House should do something about that.

What I urge my colleagues to do is to come to the well of the House and sign a discharge petition for a bill that will create cost-based pricing for 2 years as a short-circuit to stop the meltdown of the energy market on the west coast. I do that on behalf of the small business people who are losing their businesses today, last week, next week, because of the thousand percent increases in wholesale electrical rates on the west coast, which are unprecedented, wrong, unconscionable, and should be illegal.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, finally, because we dragged them kicking and screaming for the last 4 months, finally did something a few days ago, but it is clear it is not enough. We need to keep their feet to the fire. I urge my colleagues to sign the discharge petition in the well of the House today.

TAX REBATES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I remember energy going up that Texas provided for California because the Environmental Protection Agency charges them fines to run their plants. Ridiculous.

But today, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of hardworking American taxpayers who will receive a \$600 check in the mail this summer courtesy of George W. Bush. That is right. Americans do not want, do not need, and do not deserve higher taxes. That is why President Bush fought hard to make sure to give them back some of their money.

If an individual paid taxes last year, they will receive a \$300 check, if they are single; \$500 if they are a single parent; or a \$600 check if they are a married couple filing together. All this because President Bush knows that Americans can spend their own money better than we can here.

What can a person buy with \$600? Well, this is the buy-a-new-washer, a new-dryer, or buy-a-new-fridge bill. What about that? The beauty of this summer refund is that George W. Bush knows that Americans can spend their money better than the Federal Government. So let us give it back to them.

SEND MARGARET HARGROVE OF FLORIDA TO THE IRS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the pit bull is the most ferocious dog in the world, but nobody told that to Margaret Hargrove of Florida. When a pit bull clamped his massive jaws around her small Scot terrier's neck, Margaret ferociously bit the pit bull back.

Now, if that is not enough to sanitize your fire hydrant, folks, the pit bull then turned on Margaret and attacked her. Margaret then attacked the pit bull so ferociously that she drove him away.

Beam me up. Do not take this woman to a drive-in movie. Do not forget to feed her terrier. My colleagues, never bite Margaret Hargrove of Florida.

I yield back the need to hire Margaret Hargrove at the Internal Revenue Service to straighten those people out.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARTHA DE NORFOLK OF FLORIDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Martha De Norfolk, a single mother from my congressional district who is working to found the Arthrogryposis Foundation to help her disabled son Bryant Amastha, and other local children who suffer from this rare disease.

One in every 3,000 babies is born with this disease, which limits motions in their joints, usually accompanied by muscle weakness. In the classic case, hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders, hips, feet and knees are affected. In some cases, even the central nervous system. Most people with arthrogryposis are of normal intelligence and are able to lead productive lives as adults. However, if not treated through surgery and physical therapy, this disease can become terminal, as the body deforms so that internal organs cannot function properly.

Nine-year-old Bryant recently completed his 36th operation, enabling him to use an electric wheelchair to move about in home and in school. With the help of the foundation that Bryant's mother, Martha De Norfolk, is working to establish, parents of these children will soon have the financial assistance and the support groups on which to depend; and local doctors will have access to education on this debilitating illness and its treatment.

We congratulate Martha and Bryant and many others.

ENERGY

(Mr. BALDACCI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, with the continuation of rolling blackouts and skyrocketing energy costs, we need

to address our country's energy problems now. In the short term, we need a solution that provides much-needed price relief for consumers to outrageously high energy costs, particularly now that we are in the summer.

The Bush administration's energy plan does virtually nothing to address these issues. The leadership in this Congress has wiped out the raising of the fuel efficiency standards and continues to do nothing in the area of research in renewables and other long-term benefits in improving energy efficiency. The administration has tried to address this in the previous years but was unable to do it with the leadership of this Congress.

We need a plan that does not relax environmental standards, does not propose drilling in sensitive environmental areas of this country, such as the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve and off the coast of Florida's shores. That plan only benefits large oil companies at the risk of all Americans. Our approach to our country's energy problems is a balanced plan that addresses both supply and demand. The plan proposed by Democratic leadership increases refining capacity and helps America use energy more efficiently.

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AMERICA IS A NATION IN NEED OF ENERGY SOLUTIONS

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is a widely known fact that America is a Nation in need of energy solutions. We have all heard the statistics. Over the next 20 years, U.S. oil consumption is expected to increase by over 30 percent, natural gas consumption by more than 50 percent, and electricity usage will grow by an estimated 45 percent.

Yet these facts are not new. This problem did not drop out of the sky one day. These statistics have been known for years, yet the Clinton administration failed to plan for the future. Now America faces a great energy challenge that can only be met through increased production and conservation.

California's policy of strict conservation without production has not worked. Despite growing energy consumption, not one major power plant was added in the 1990s. Unfortunately, the people of California are suffering because of it.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush has put forth plans emphasizing conservation while meeting production needs. We cannot look away like past administrations have, hoping that the problem will just go away, because it will not.